GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:63
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2016
Exploration in Lignite Mines
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of lignite mines planned for exploration during the Eleventh Five Year Plan along with the target set and achieved, year-wise;
(b) the details of new lignite mines planned for exploration during the Twelfth Five Year Plan, State-wise;
(c) whether there exists a big gap between production and demand of lignite in the country; and
(d) if so, the manner in which the Government is planning to meet the demand of lignite in the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 63 FOR 28.4.2016

(a) : Exploration for lignite is carried out geological block wise and target is fixed year wise. The year wise target of drilling and achievement for exploration of lignite under the Plan Scheme of Promotional Exploration during XI plan carried out by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) are furnished in the Table-1 below.
Table-1
(in Meters)
Year Target Achievement
2007-08 67300 37863
2008-09 61100 54453.7
2009-10 69050 55130.4
2010-11 61700 51795.4
2011-12 51700 43737.9
2,50,280 242980.60

(b) : The year wise target of drilling and achievement for exploration of lignite under the Plan Scheme of Promotional Exploration during XII plan carried out by MECL are furnished in the Table-2 below.
Table-2
(in Meters)
Year Target Achievement
2012-13 43650 59315.90
2013-14 62000 61394.10
2014-15 61000 60331.20
2015-16 53000 52241.80
2016-17 70000
Total 289650 233283.00

(c) : Unlike coal, gap in supply and demand for lignite is not material as most of lignite produced is linked to downstream pithead power stations and power stations are synchronized with mining operations in such a way that required quantities of lignite is timely available for power generation.

(d) : In most of the cases, lignite mines are linked to downstream power stations. Concerted efforts are being made for timely implementation of the ongoing projects and taking up new projects. On completion of these projects 26.3 MTPA of additional capacity is envisaged to be added by NLC by 2025 from the existing lignite production capacity of 30.6 MTPA. This additional lignite production would support an additional generation capacity of 2400 MW and the total lignite based generation capacity of NLC would reach 5640 MW by 2025.

Further, Government has also allotted three lignite blocks to GMDC in August 2015 of which one block namely PanandroExtn. is meant for power generation and the other two blocks namely Bharkandam and Ghala are meant for commercial mining. In addition, Vastan Lignite block has been allocated in principle to GIPCL for underground coal gasification purposes.